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SUBJECT: ANKARA MEDIA REACTION REPORT
FRIDAY, DECEMBER 5, 2003

THIS REPORT WILL PRESENT A TURKISH PRESS SUMMARY UNDER
THREE THEMES:

HEADLINES
BRIEFING
EDITORIAL OPINION

HEADLINES

MASS APPEAL
General Pace: US, Turkey in joint struggle against PKK - Hurriyet
US, Turkey agree to move against PKK - Aksam
Parliament of Europe: No negotiation date without a Cyprus solution - Hurriyet
Sunni Triangle the center of resistance in Iraq - Aksam
AKP removes restrictions on Koran courses - Sabah

OPINION MAKERS
Verheugen continues targeting Denktas - Cumhuriyet
Loizidou case might launch a new wave of lawsuits - Cumhuriyet
Businessman Nadir: Denktas betrayed the Cypriot people - Radikal
Verheugen believes Turkey may join the EU in 10-15 years - Zaman
Turks may grab parts of the Iraqi reconstruction pie - Yeni Safak
Iraqi resistance conducted from a single center - Yeni Safak
Turkey sends three helicopters to Afghanistan - Zaman
Rumsfeld visits Kabul - Radikal

BRIEFING

General Peter Pace in Ankara: Vice Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, General Peter Pace, said after meeting with Defense Minister Vecdi Gonul in Ankara on Thursday that the PKK/KADEK is a terrorist organization despite its recent announcement of a name change. "We will continue exploring ways to fight terrorism," General Pace said. "The struggle against terrorism must be carried out through financial, political and military methods, Pace added." Dailies expect the US to give priority to political and financial efforts until the amnesty offered by Turkey to terror organization members expires in February 2004.

Alan Larson calls on Turks to compete for Iraq contracts: US Assistant Secretary of State Alan Larson advised Turkish businessmen to compete for new contracts worth up to \$18.7 billion to be offered by the Iraqi authority in coming days. The US Congress is expected to approve the \$18.7 billion, which will be awarded for 25 large and 2,000 small infrastructure projects, some time in February 2004. US Eximbank board member April Foley applauded Turkey's economic stabilization program and privatization efforts.

Ankara's show of support for TRNC government: The Turkish government is sending three cabinet members to the Turkish Republic of Northern Cyprus (TRNC) on Friday. The visit comes on the eve of critical general elections in December. The visit will demonstrate top-level economic and political support for the current government in the TRNC, according to Turkish dailies. Turkey's Treasury is to give the TRNC \$160 million in loans, and the Turkish Development Bank will fund 17 tourism-related projects.

Military uneasy over AKP policies: The military has given tough messages to the ruling AK Party regarding secularism,

"Cumhuriyet" claims. The military was bothered by the fact that Prime Minister Erdogan acknowledged that religious elements were involved in the Istanbul bombings only under heavy domestic and international pressure. The AK Party policy of assigning its supporters to key bureaucratic posts is another source of concern for the military. AKP provincial officials are encouraging fundamentalist activities, "Cumhuriyet claims, and "politicized" the Muslim holy month of Ramadan.

AKP removes restrictions on Koran courses: The AK Party government has discreetly amended the regulation on Koran courses. A new regulation was published in the Official Gazette during the Bayram holiday. Koran courses, which had only been allowed in summer, will now be open all year round, including during evening hours. Mainstream media believe the changes were designed to attract working children to Koran courses. The opposition CHP strongly criticized the new implementation, and claimed the new system would serve to train fundamentalists.

Turkey sends helicopters for ISAF: Foreign Minister Gul announced that Turkey would send three Black Hawk helicopters to the ISAF mission in Afghanistan. Gul noted that the helicopters would be used for humanitarian purposes, not for combat. Gul also noted that NATO and EU members had accepted a Turkish proposal for holding a seminar on terrorism, in which the sources of terrorism and possible action against terrorist activities will be discussed.

EDITORIAL OPINION: Iraq; Iran

"The Plan for Getting Out of Iraq"
Mehmet Ali Kislali commented in the liberal-intellectual Radikal (12/5): "The US has changed its Iraq strategy. The election plan and the plan for transferring authority to Iraqis indicate that the US has acknowledged the reality: Getting out of Iraq can only be possible by transferring administrative authority to Iraqis.. This is not what the US originally intended when it began the occupation of Iraq. The US wanted to create a new Iraqi nation and establish democracy. And the US also hoped to be treated by the Iraqi people as a liberator. Yet US forces now are viewed as occupiers, not liberators. . History tells us about the aftermath of US intervention efforts in the past. Since the founding of the United States of America, there have been 200 foreign interventions carried out by the US. Among 16 of the total 200, the US intended to create a nation, which resulted in success in Japan, Germany, Panama and Grenada. Yet in 11 countries, efforts for democracy failed. Moreover, these countries went backward to rule by dictatorial regimes right after the US withdrawal. In the Iraq case, it is quite possible that history will repeat itself and the US will live through a similar experience as Britain did when it occupied Iraq during the Ottoman Empire."

"Iran's Nuclear Capacity"
Murat Birsel opined in the mass appeal Vatan (12/5): "We are all preoccupied by Iraq and have overlooked a clear Iranian threat which remains right next door to us. Iran's nuclear program continues to be kept secret from international inspection, and the recent warning about the issue by the US, UK, France and Germany did not receive enough coverage in the Turkish media. Yet it was an alarmingly important warning, and the foreign press interpreted it as a step toward a potential Israeli attack against Iranian nuclear facilities. . There are credible estimates that predict that Iran could have an atomic bomb within three or four years. This is a direct and imminent concern for Turkey. Let's face reality: Our neighbors are labeled as 'terrorist states' by the Western world, and there are measures to be implemented for punishing them. The fact of the matter is that once terrorist states are punished by the Western world, Turkey is the venue for reprisal. The Western world is making a serious mistake by alienating Turkey and leaving it helplessly in the wake of terrorism. We can only hope that common sense prevails and the EU opens its doors to Turkey."